

FAQs
San Jose Water Company's Pipeline Replacement
For N. Santa Cruz Avenue (between Main & Highway 9)
12-14-04

San Jose Water Company (SJWC) recently informed the Town of their need to replace the underground waterline on N. Santa Cruz Ave., between Main St. and Highway 9. Although the Town had asked SJWC several times over the past few years if they needed to do this work on Santa Cruz Ave., SJWC only recently made this determination. **As SJWC's planning and design stage progresses, this FAQ sheet will be updated.**

Why does the water line need to be replaced? The waterline pipes are over 100 years old and due to the age, is prone to leakage and potentially breaking up under construction equipment. There have been occasional leaks in the past, where SJWC has come in and repaired (most recently on East Main at College). Additionally, there is not a sufficient number of functioning water valves along the line. If SJWC leaves the existing line in place and we proceed with street reconstruction planned next summer (2005), sections of the line could break. A pipeline break could occur during the construction or afterwards, and will be very disruptive, causing a great deal of inconvenience to everyone and delaying the paving project while clean-up and repairs are conducted. If the line breaks after paving is complete, it will mean cutting into a newly paved roadway.

What is the benefit for the Town? We will have much improved water distribution system in the downtown area along with enhanced fire protection service for merchants and properties along this section of Santa Cruz Ave.

When will the work be done? The water line will be replaced by SJWC during March/April 2005 before the Santa Cruz Avenue paving project for a period of time yet to be determined. Some work will be done at night and early morning, in an effort to minimize any road closures and other inconveniences to merchants. Details will be updated once the final design is completed.

How will the work be done? A new trench will be dug adjacent to the old line. After placement of a new water line and testing it to ensure it operates properly and is free of bacteria, new lateral connections to each property will be completed.

Will the road be closed? No. All attempts will be made to keep 2-way traffic available and flowing. At certain areas it will be necessary to allow one lane of traffic only. Some areas of work will be conducted early morning or night to avoid high-traffic times. Specific details will be developed once the design of the project is completed.

How will the project affect parking? All parking lots will be open for use. Some street parking on N. Santa Cruz Ave. will be unavailable during construction. We will work with SJWC to mitigate this loss of parking.

Water Service Disruption: SJWC will notify businesses in advance, and coordinate their work with businesses to determine the least disruption to businesses.

Who to Contact For More Information: SJWC will provide staff contacts once their project is underway. Town staff is available to answer questions at (408) 399-5770. Information will also be updated on the Town's website, under "What's New" at www.losgatosca.gov/new/